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FUN WITH SPELLING BEES

By Joan Rupert-Barkley

Nail-biting, high tension and nerve racking are just a few of the words that describe the atmosphere at most regional spelling bees. However, Lynda Joanisse is organizing an area competition that will emotionally help students prepare for the regionals. She hopes this event will have a more relaxed atmosphere and therefore help build student's confidence.

"I want this practice to create a good watch for parents and a good time for the kids, so they walk away saying that was a load of fun," commented Joanisse.

The Inaugural South Grenville Invitational Spelling Bee will take place on Saturday, February 28, 2015, at St. Lawrence Academy in Prescott. The event is divided into three categories: Primary (Grades 1 to 3), Junior (Grades 4 to 6), and Intermediate (Grades 7 and 8). Registration cost is \$5.00 per student and the last day to register is February 1, 2015. Prizes will be awarded to the top winners in each category.

Although Joanisse considers this competition to be a practice run for the regionals, which will be held in Ottawa or Kingston in the spring, the rules and list of words will remain the same as the regionals. She noted however, that the first round of words the students are given to spell will be ones that will make them feel successful. As the rounds continue, the words will get harder.

There will be three judges, a pronouncer, a timer and an assistance pronouncer.

The contestants will have 2 minutes to spell their word and they can request the pronouncer to re-pronounce the word, define it, use it in a sentence or give the language of origin. Joanisse noted that a bell, not a harsh buzzer, will be used if the student spells the word incorrectly. In order to keep things comfortable and fun for participants, students who are eliminated will sit together in the audience with a teacher and will get the opportunity to watch the rest of the spelling bee.

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The competition is hosted by St. Lawrence Academy and sponsored by the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce. When Joannise approached the chamber with her proposal about sponsoring the event, they were more than happy to be involved in a project that gets children interested in learning.

Chamber president, Dan Roddick, commented that since the chamber reaches the three municipalities (Prescott, Edwardsburg/Cardinal and Augusta) the spelling bee is a great initiative.

"It is part of the chamber's mandate to give back to the community and anytime you do something to help children it is a good thing," stated Roddick.

The chamber sent out spelling bee packages to area schools, as well as home schoolers in the fall. Packages included rules and regulations of the competition, as well as hints on how to practice. Upon registration, students will receive their manual through a pdf file.

For more information, you can contact Lynda Joannise at lyndajsla@gmail.com or (613-803-8040) or the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce at (613)213-1043.

EDITORS NOTE

(This is a great opportunity for parents and students to work together and have fun preparing for this event. This is a great way for students to learn about vocabulary, communication skills,



Lynda Joannise (Organizer of South Grenville Spelling Bee and Director of St Lawrence Academy)

concentration, study preparation and confidence speaking in public. We thank all advertisers for their support in promoting this event in the magazine and the South Grenville Chamber for being a major sponsor to help promote education in South Grenville.

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